Black Hills Granite/Metamorphic Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Black Hills Granite/Metamorphic Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation
SYNONYM	Black Hills Granite/Metamorphic Rock Outcrop
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Sparse Vegetation (VII)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Consolidated rock sparse vegetation (VII.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Sparsely vegetated cliffs (VII.A.1)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (VII.A.1.N)
FORMATION	Cliffs with sparse vascular vegetation (VII.A.1.N.a)
ALLIANCE	Rock Outcrop/Butte Sparsely Vegetated Alliance

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 3

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM Upland

RANGE

Globally

This association is found in western South Dakota and may be related to rock outcrops in the Rocky Mountains.

Wind Cave National Park

No mappable stands of Black Hills rock outcrop sparse vegetation were found within Wind Cave NP. However, the type is common just west of the Park on Forest Service lands.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Globally

This community is found where granite or schist bedrock is exposed in the higher elevations of the Black Hills. Slopes range from none (flat) to steep. There is little soil development; what soil there is can be found in cracks and depressions in the rock surface.

Wind Cave National Park

Black Hills Rock Outcrop Sparse Vegetation occurs on large granite and schist outcrops.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Globally

Stratum	Species

Few vascular species occur in this association.

Wind Cave National Park

Stratum	Species

Few vascular species occur in this association.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Globally

Few vascular species occur in this association.

Wind Cave National Park

Few vascular species occur in this association.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Globally

Few vascular plants grow in this community, although lichens are common. Widely scattered *Pinus ponderosa* grow in cracks and crevices. Dwarf-shrubs and herbaceous species, such as *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi, Juniperus communis, Campanula rotundifolia*, and *Carex inops* ssp. *heliophila*, can be found in soil pockets.

Wind Cave National Park

Black Hills rock outcrop sparse vegetation typically consists of scattered ponderosa pine trees, shrubs and herbaceous species growing in crevices and pockets of soil. Squaw-bush (*Rhus trilobata*), kinnikinnik (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*) and harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*) are often found at these sites.

OTHER NOTEWORTHY SPECIES

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5

DATABASE CODE CEGL002295

MAP UNITS
This type includes granite and schist outcrops. Other rock outcrops found in the Black Hills are not included (e.g. limestones and sandstones). Black Hills rock outcrop sparse vegetation corresponds to map unit 4, granite/schist rock outcrop sparse vegetation, on the Wind Cave vegetation map.

COMMENTS
Wind Cave National Park
This type includes granite and schist outcrops. Other rock outcrops found in the Black Hills are not included (e.g. limestones and sandstones).

REFERENCES